

POST OFFICE PERFORATIONS ON EARLY POSTCARDS

by Marion Cox

Postcards were first introduced to Britain in 1870 and were put on sale on October 1st of that year.

Between 1870 and 1876 various complicated devices were used to cancel these cards to guard against re-use. In Edinburgh, Birmingham and Liverpool holes were punched out of the impressed stamp; in Manchester the edge of the card was clipped; and in Liverpool and London the imprinted "stamp" was perforated with an arrow design. From 1876, however, more conventional means of cancellation were used.

References :-

English Specialists' Journal - Jan. 23 1897 p.236-8

Stamp Collecting Dec. 28, 1962 p. 559



As a footnote to the above, I draw members attention to the above illustration from the Lindt Catalogue (No. 119.37). It is very like the pin cancellor mentioned above. However, as these postcards had impressed stamps, it would not normally have appeared on normal adhesive stamps. Does any member have any further information about this perfin, or a copy? The Editor would be pleased to learn more about it.

Editor.